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THE
Anti-Politician.



Price Sixpence.



THE
Anti-Politician.

A
STATE-PIECE

In the newest TASTE:
Done from the Life, in *Miniature.*

— *Qui esse primos Se omnium rerum volunt,
nec sunt.* TEREN.

Quoniam facta, dicta videbantur. TACIT.



L O N D O N:


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T H E

Anti-Politician.

A.  R E you the grand Statesman
Alamode, the *Princeps Anti-*
politicorum?

B. The very same: What
is your Business?

A. I am sent hither by *Sempronius* to re-
ceive the Honour of your Instruction.

B. I remember he proposed, when I saw
him last, to send me a Pupil of promising
Parts, and a hopeful Disposition.

A. I have nothing to plead but his Interest
and Recommendation.

B. He would never have put you into my
Hands, had he not been well assured both of
your Docility and Taciturnity.

A 3

A. I

A. I dare not answer for myself; but I told him I was very desirous of seeing and hearing such an uncommon Genius, and so profound a Statesman.

B. I am willing to gratify you both; and shall communicate to you our Mysteries and Memoirs very freely, and without Reserve. But instead of a formal, continued Lecture, propose your own Queries, and chuse such Points as will be most agreeable to your Taste and Curiosity.

A. I have heard you was some time ago in *France* and *Italy*: Are you a Native of either of those Countries; or you only travelled thither by way of Improvement, and for the sake of Observation?

B. The latter; and so must you do, if you aim at Perfection in our way. *Rome* is the chief Seat of our Sect; the Mother and Nurse of *Anti-politicians*.

A. In the mean time, I desire to know what it is that you profess?

B. The Information, Security, and Prosperity of the Public.

A. Glorious Views! By what Means and Methods do ye pursue them?

B. In general, by a happy Mixture of Light and Shade; an Art so perfected by us, that we are able to confound any Thing with any Thing: More particularly, at present, by clearing Absurdities, and colouring Contradictions; by circulating what the ignorant
Multitude

Multitude calls Lies, We necessary Truths; by exciting Disaffection, fomenting Sedition, and kindling Rebellion.—Be not startled: I see you still labour under the Prejudices of Education.

A. Strange Means for the Accomplishment of such Ends! But, pray, who drew you into this wonderful Scheme?

B. No Man: I was born with strong Propensions that way.

A. Does Nature give any such Propensions?

B. Nature sows the Seeds of Ambition in Mens Minds; which, when they spring up, generally produce either *Politics*, or *Anti-politics*; according to the Difference of Soil, and Culture, and Situation. Thus when the Reins of Government are in our Hands, we set up for *Politicians*; tho' some think against the Grain: when we are deprived of them, we immediately commence *Anti-politicians*, and continue such till we recover them.

A. Very curious! And have you Principles suited to these contrary States?

B. We have: but take heed you misapprehend me not. Our private Principles are fixed and constant; as never changing, unless our Inclinations change, which rarely happens: But our public Principles are very variable; shifting *East, West, North and South*, and through all the Points of the Compass.

A. I

A. I would gladly hear how they stand at present. — What do you make the Rule of Subjection, and the Measure of Allegiance to——?

B. The Will and Pleasure of the People: that is, of their Directors and Leaders.

A. How mean you?

B. While he complies with our Humours, and governs according to our Inclinations; he is to be readily submitted to, cordially respected, and chearfully obeyed.

A. What if any Steps are taken repugnant to your Views, or disagreeable to your Fancies; tho' perfectly legal, and strictly just?

B. We pronounce it an Invasion of our Rights and Liberties, and a plain Violation of the Majesty of the People.

A. May he chuse his own *Ministers*?

B. Yes, if he chuse us; or those whom we recommend.

A. Suppose he chuse others; what then?

B. They are not to be suffered; especially if they presume to keep their Posts a considerable time.

A. But what if they act according to Law, Reason, and Equity; and in the Judgment of all impartial Men, studiously promote the public Good?

B. Their very Continuance in Office is unjust and illegal. It is the utmost Insolence, and a most unpardonable Crime, for any

any Man to keep Possession, for many Years together, of that Power and Honour, from which we, notwithstanding our peculiar Merits, are ignominiously excluded.

A. I understand you. Ought then such a Minister to be removed?

B. Without Question.

A. But what if you cannot prevail by fair Means?

B. We must prevail by some Means. If nothing material appear against him, Recourse must be had to Exaggeration, and even Invention: All Methods must be taken to asperse his Character, vilify his Conduct, and fix Blots in his Escutcheon. All his Actions and Designs must be represented as perfidious, dangerous, and destructive: It must be shewn that he can mean nothing less than the Subversion of our Liberties, the Abolition of our Laws, and the Introduction of Tyranny: nay, his very Words, and even Looks, must be construed into shamefull Arrogance, and high Presumption.

A. Are you then so dextrous as to reverse a fixed Character, and turn an established Reputation upside down?

B. This is our peculiar Province, and chief Distinction: and we have already shewn such an Excellence therein, and given such a Proof of our supreme Abilities, as greatly astonishes the whole Nation.

B

A. But

A. But may it not naturally be presumed that a wise and discerning Prince will see through these Arts, and escape the Delusion?

B. Being apprehensive of this, we therefore turn to the Subject; more especially we try all Ways and Means to enflame the Populace.

A. Is it convenient to turn the Heads, and seduce the Hearts of well-meaning Men?

B. *Si populus vult decipi, decipiatur.*

A. Will the People be easily brought to see those Evils which they feel nothing of?

B. The Bulk of the People we have, if we can but hold them. The late *Scheme* gave us an Opportunity favourable beyond all our Hopes. Every Circumstance was lucky. We had so thoroughly prepared their Minds, that the Alarm was generally and quickly taken. The very first Spark caught, and spread like Wild-fire.

A. How did ye improve this Opportunity?

B. All Hands and all Bellows were at work without Intermission. The Flame was blown up almost to what Height we pleased. Amidst such a Combustion, you may easily imagine how we triumphed and exulted: yet with a seeming Composure we expostulated the Matter afresh; desired our brave Countrymen to recollect what we had foretold, and take notice that our Predicti-

ons were so far exactly verify'd. We bad them look up and see what a Storm was gathering over their Heads: We clamoured incessantly, that Liberty and Property were in the utmost Danger; and in short, that without a Change of Hands our Case was remediless, and our Condition desperate.

A. Who can sufficiently admire your Dexterity!

B. Observe only, by the way, what great Force the smallest Instruments may have in the Hands of finished Artists! A couple of Syllables served our Purpose. What a pitiful Engine was this, for moving all the Springs of popular Affection; heaving Mens Understandings from one Side to another; and breaking in so forcibly among the Wheels of Government!

A. Very true. But was this little Engine played by no Hands but yours? If it was, why do ye ascribe these grand Operations solely to your selves?

B. There were many other Agents concerned: But we consider them only as our Under-workmen; because we directed their Motions, and governed their Proceedings.

A. But pray inform me, in what Colours you painted the Author and Contriver of the forementioned Scheme.

B. We blackened him from Head to Foot; deprived him of every human Feature; turn-

ed him out a compleat Monster, and defied all *Africa* to match him.

A. And how did ye represent his Administration?

B. As a mere Web of blundering Iniquity from Beginning to End.

A. Very strong! And when you had thus finished his Picture, did you not write his Name under it?

B. No sure. A great Part of the People, by our Management, looked upon it as drawn exactly to the Life.

A. Was he not worked up by this Usage into great Indignation? Did he not, upon this Occasion, fret, and storm, and bluster outrageously?

B. No: He had the Insolence to keep himself cool and calm; and seemed to treat us with a contemptuous Neglect, or rather Pity. This we impute either to Affectation, or Stupidity; tho' his Friends put other Constructions on it, and ascribe it, forsooth, to his Innocence, the Greatness of his Mind, and I know not what.

A. You say then your Votaries are very numerous: but, after all, what if their Eyes should begin to open?

B. It will be to no Purpose: For we shall continually raise such a Dust, that they will not be able to see any Thing distinctly. And if this should fail, and we cannot govern
their

their Eyes; yet we shall take effectual Care to keep fast Hold of their Ears.

A. As how?

B. By thundring Invectives against *Bribery* and *Corruption*.

A. But must you not then be forced to keep clear your selves?

B. Not at all; unless it be a little above Board. For, be the Occasion what it will, we shall privately outbid the highest Ministerial Purchasers; and if they offer their Thousands, we shall offer our ten Thousands.

A. It seems then you are not solicitous to banish Bribery and Corruption; but rather have a Mind to draw them into your own Hands, and perhaps monopolize them.

B. Whether in Power, or out of Power, whatever may be publicly pretended; we are often not able, as the World goes, to work our Way empty-handed: but so popular and plausible a Topick must not be lost, or let slip.

A. Let all real Corruptions be plucked up by the Roots: in the mean time, will you say they are more culpable when used in Defence of a Government, than in Opposition to it?

B. As we use them, they are harmless and commendable things; but in ministerial Hands, scandalous and intolerable. In short, we are no longer able to endure such an awkward, clumsy Administration.

A. Have

A. Have you proved it such?

B. We have peremptorily affirmed it over and over again; supported our Assertion by a long Train of Argumentation; and indeed will maintain it to the last Drop of our Ink.

A. What other Hold do ye take of the Ears of the People?

B. We exclaim loudly against a *Standing Army*. And, to confess the Truth, we look upon this as one of our Master-pieces.

A. Why so?

B. Because we have put it out of the Nation's Power, at present, to be safe without one.

A. Which way?

B. By cherishing *Jacobitism*; by the Admission of all Kinds of disaffected Persons into the Anti-ministerial Party. This was judged a proper Step, not only for the sake of augmenting our Numbers, and strengthening our Forces; but in order to intimidate the Government, and make the Continuance of the Army doubly requisite, and indeed unavoidable.

A. To what End?

B. To secure a fair Handle for smiting and belabouring the Ministry; on which we fix the whole Odium of so unpopular and obnoxious an Expedient. And tho' we are throughly apprized of the absolute Necessity of some standing Forces in the present Situation; yet we advise the Government by all means

means to trust entirely to the Affections of the People.

A. And do you not endeavour, at the same time, to corrupt, and even alienate those Affections, as much as lies in your Power?

B. Some of us are obliged, in point of Principle, to take such Measures: others desire nothing more than to keep the Affections of the People in suspense, till a new Ministry be obtained; and after that, would permit them to run in the old Channel.

A. In whether of these Classes are you to be found?

B. I tell you ingenuously, whatever Steps I may have taken formerly; that, were I once fixed at the Head of the Ministry, I should not be extremely anxious, or obstinate, about other Matters. I might, for any thing I know, be prevailed on to sit still, without a Revival of my old Scheme.—And as to my Brother *Gracchus*, his Views never reached any farther than to the Point I am speaking of. Whatever Parties or Principles he leagues with, he only uses them as so many Scaffolds to assist him in pulling down the great Object of his Envy and mine. In order whereto, we reject no Means, no Instruments, that have the least Tendency to promote so desirable an End.

A. And what other Use do ye make of the forementioned Conjunction?

B. We

B. We give out that there is an entire *Coalition* of all Parties in behalf of the common Cause: and that in spite of different Principles, now almost buried in Oblivion, all Denominations are firmly united in a strict Confederacy. In short, we have abolished all Distinctions, excepting that of the *Court-Interest*, and the *Country-Interest*.

A. What means this Distinction? Are the *Court* and the *Country* at Variance?

B. We are at Variance with the *Court*, and that is sufficient. Since we are not in it, we cannot be for it; and while we are against it, we are resolved the *Country* shall be so too.

A. But, with great Submission, is there not a small Error in this Distinction, which wants to be rectified? Would it not, at least, have sounded more plausibly, if it had run thus, *viz.* the *Court-Interest*, and the *City-Interest*? Is not the *City* much better entitled to such a Compliment than the *Country*?

B. A mere Quibble: as if the *Country* did not include the *City*; and indeed all the *Cities* in the Kingdom.

A. But did not the *Court* lately shew a particular Concern for the Ease and Advantage of *Country Gentlemen*, *Freeholders*, &c.? And will not this Distinction be apt to put People unseasonably in mind of it?

B. There may be something in what you say, tho' not enough to weigh against our stronger

stronger Reasons. I might tell you several, drawn from the very Depths of true Policy; but you are too green a Statesman for such Communications.

A. It may be so. But since you are resolved, as you have been saying, that the Country shall be on your Side, and against the Court; pray let me know how this is to be effected?

B. By the Force of Art, and the Power of Stratagem; in which we have been already so successful, as to gain a great Multitude: And we expect in a little Time to have the Bulk of the Nation entirely at our Beck.

A. Which way do ye go to work?

B. We make it appear by great Variety of Arguments, that the Interest of the Public is undermin'd; that the Credit of the Nation sinks, and Commerce dwindles every Day; that we have neither Peace and Plenty at Home, nor Reputation abroad; that we are grievously oppressed with Taxes, and threatned with more; that Slavery advances fast, and Famine stares us in the Face: In a word, that we are in a most languishing, sickly Condition; and that it is all owing to the sinister Measures, and vile Practices of a certain Person at the Helm.

A. And will ye be able to convince every Body of the Truth of these Allegations?

B. Many are convinced; and others seem well disposed for Conviction. We cherish

C

both;

both; but whoever stand out, must expect the Imputation either of Servility or Stupidity.

A. What Appellations do you ordinarily bestow on the Heads of the Ministerial Party?

B. Such as they richly deserve; Hirelings, Place-men, Pensioners, Prostitutes, Slaves.

A. Very strong: but supposing the Tables turned, and the Game your own; to whom then would these Titles belong? I presume you would not think of keeping all Posts and Places in your own Hands.

B. No, sure: there must be a Variety and Subordination of Courtiers. Prime-Ministers we would be; but not Sole-Ministers.

A. Supposing then your Measures just and right, or that you really judged them to be so; whether would you desire Unanimity, or Disagreement? Whether would you endeavour to promote Those who would be most likely to concur with you in such Measures, or Those who were most likely to oppose them?

B. The former: but then they should be true Patriots; Men of strict Honour, and perfectly disinterested; devoted to their Country, and quite regardless of themselves.

A. Very good. And when such Men were once taken in, your Example would be sure to keep them thoroughly unspotted afterwards.—But since they would have Places, might they not be called Place-men, and perhaps

perhaps Mercenaries? What Security against envious Minds, perverse Manners, and petulant Tongues? For I suppose Mens Tongues and Pens would be still at Liberty.

B. Think you so? Leave that to our Care. I confess indeed, as the Case stands at present, such Liberty is highly fitting, and indeed absolutely necessary: But when the Court is reformed, as we would have it, and as it should be; it may not be very difficult to find a proper Curb for such Enormities. To rail at such Courtiers as we are now speaking of, would be downright Licentiousness. In our Administration there will be so many Things Praise-worthy, that a mere Abstinence from Censure will not satisfy us. Silence will raise Suspicion; and we shall look upon Those as Malignants, and treat them accordingly, who withhold the due Tribute of Applause.

A. What a glorious Time will that be! I hope the Wits of our Island are already preparing Panegyrics. — In the mean while, what Methods do you take to secure the approaching Election?

B. Whatever is within the Compass of human Skill, Industry, Cost, Conduct, and Contrivance, we do, and shall do.

A. Do you find the Bulk of the Freeholders as tractable and pliant, as you expected.

B. Not altogether: But we have other Nets to spread, by which we hope to catch

most of them ; whether Churchmen or Dissenters.

A. What make you of the Dissenters ?

B. At present, we know not well what to make of them. Tho' we lately condescended to caress them in a very unusual Manner, and thought most of them secure ; yet we find our selves in great Danger of being disappointed. They seem very little sensible of our Civilities, and are full of Suspicion and Distrust. If they come not in at the Election, they may expect to feel, in due Time, the Effects of their Obstinacy and Ill-manners.

A. If they do come in, what may they expect ?

B. To be treated with less Rigor than we are used to shew them ; and perhaps have some Degree of Toleration continued to them.

A. The Churchmen are too numerous for a particular Enquiry ; but how find you the Clergy ?

B. For the most part restive ; which we ascribe partly to the Influence of their Diocessans, and partly to some Whims of their own.

A. What ? Have ye not gained the Bench of Bishops ?

B. They are intractable, and stiff to the last Degree. I have therefore thought fit, in
one

one of our Weekly Oracles, to characterize them as they deserve.

A. How?

B. Under the Image of a certain Species of *Chefs-mien*, I have represented them as mere *Prelatical Pieces of Wood*.

A. Very smart! But is it not their standing Principle, and constant Practice, to adhere to the Government, while the Government adheres to the Laws of the Land?

B. We trouble not ourselves about their Principles. Since they are against us, we are, in course, against them. And depend upon it, we shall either find or make Spots in their Lawn-Sleeves. If Policy will not prompt us to bespatter them, Resentment will. You talk of adhering to the Government: They adhere to their own Interest. And indeed how should they think and act independently, who have so many Promotions and Translations in View?

A. Pray what Views, what Promotions, drew a Number of them to the *Tower* about half a Century ago?

B. What Occasion to look so far backwards? I say, Let the Clergy mind their Books, and say their Prayers; let them defend Religion, and leave State-Affairs to us, who understand them better.

A. Has Religion nothing to do with the Peace and Prosperity of the Public? If they are apprehensive of any Designs on foot to

embroil the State, and throw every thing into Confusion; what can oblige them either to shut their Eyes, or their Mouths? On this Supposition it will be said, No Profession can require Men, or even allow them, to be silent Spectators. If then any such Notion prevails among them, why do ye not deceive them and set them right?

B. While Men give way to splenetic Imaginations and unaccountable Suspicions, little good is to be done with them. All that we desire of the Prelates and inferior Clergy is, that they will come heartily and unanimously into the Interest of their Country; and this they must do, if they expect to be admitted into our good Graces.

A. Do you mean by the Interest of their Country, the *Country-Interest*?

B. The very same: What else should I mean?

A. Excuse my Dulness: I knew not but there might possibly be some little Distinction.—But since you lately mentioned Religion, pray inform me, by the way, what Religion it is that your Sect professes?

B. Religion! I did not expect to be interrogated on that Head. If you must have an Answer to so impertinent a Question — We are zealous Worshipers of *Diana*.

A. What mean you? Are you for the Chace?

B. Yes,

B. Yes, of Wealth and Power; that is our Game. But return to your Point.

A. Tell me then in what manner you apply to the Freeholders; and how you harangue them on the present Occasion?

B. We assure them, on our certain Knowledge, that if they do not unite at this Time resolutely and vigorously against the Court, the Ruin of their Country is inevitable. That our Rights and Privileges are closely besieged; that wide Breaches are made in our Laws; and even *Magna Charta* itself is in a ruinous Condition: That the State totters, and the Constitution is crack'd down to the very Foundation: That further, our Vitals are continually prey'd on by Vultures and Cormorants; infomuch that our Blood and Treasure are almost drained: To be short, that without a new Ministry, we shall have little else to do, than sit down, and make our Wills; bequeathing our Shackles and Miseries to our wretched Posterity.

A. A very tragical Business! And are not your Hearers strangely startled? Do they not look pale, and burst into Tears and Lamentations?

B. Some are frightened, others vexed: Others again smirk, and simper, and shrug, and give themselves all manner of suspicious Airs. One of them had the Impudence to ask a worthy Orator of ours, whether he understood *Legerdemain*. Another launched

ed out into a formal Reply ; declaring, that he neither saw, nor felt any thing like what he had now heard ; that, in troth, he had never lived so well in his Life, as the last seven Years ; never had so good a Trade, or was in so fair a way of thriving ; that he hoped the Dangers talked of were nothing but sick Mens Dreams ; and that, for his Part, he was resolved to live and dye a loyal Subject. Have a good Heart, Masters, continued the queer Fellow ; I warrant you we are safe, and all will be well : These dismal Speeches of yours would sound rarely in *Poland*, if ye please to go and make the Experiment.

A. Such little Snuffles as these are beneath your Notice.

B. What provoked us the most, was the Answer of an old one-legged Freeholder, who, it seems, lost the other at *Blenheim*. He assured some of our Agents, that his Wooden-Limb was an infallible State-Almanack : That in every real Danger it gave him certain Notice, and made him uneasy in proportion : That he found a Pain at such a Time, and a grumbling at such a Time ; but at present was quite easy : From whence he concluded we had nothing to fear ; and that nothing would hurt us, unless we had a Mind to run our Heads against a Wall, or go to Cuffs with one another, out of meer Wantonness.

A. Our

A. Our Countrymen have topping Spirits. —But is it true you have complimented the Freeholders with new Powers?

B. We have admonished them to guard against Imposition, and Encroachment; assuring them that their Representatives, whatever may be pretended to the contrary, are nothing more than their Agents, or Attorneys; or, if they please to have it so, the meer Instruments of Legislation: That the Right of judging and determining what Laws are proper to be enacted, is incommunicably theirs, and cannot be transferred: that therefore the Members are obliged not only to have a due Regard for the Interests and Instructions of their Constituents; but, in all Cases of Moment, to refer every Thing to them, and to be governed entirely by their Directions and Decisions.

A. And is this then our Constitution?

B. *Pro hic & nunc*, as we say; while Popularity is in Vogue. —But I was going to mention another Point, which has perplexed us a little in our Pursuits. We have been several times upbraided with our Antimonarchical Principles; and even openly proclaimed *Republicans*, in Mob-Clamours, and ministerial Shouts.

A. Was there any Ground for such a Charge?

B. The Truth is, we have often given very broad Hints of our Inclination for a

D

Common-

Commonwealth: and if we cannot carry our main Point, shall certainly speak out, and push for it in earnest. But if we succeed in that; we shall be as staunch for Monarchy as ever, and retort the Charge upon our Adversaries.

A. In Case of a Disappointment, you will, I suppose, have no other Chance left for getting into Power: But since Power, in a Commonwealth, is so crumbled and curtailed; had you not better struggle for a Prime-Ministry in the present Government; dividing it between your self and *Gracchus*, whose Merits I believe you acknowledge almost equal to your own?

B. Very true; and therefore we leave no Stone unturned. *Gracchus* is without Question my *frater fraterimus*. He exerts himself with unconquerable Zeal; and lays about him with a Spirit, and a Courage, unknown to former Ages. And indeed I may say without Vanity, what History will confess at large; that such a *Par nobile* is not to be met with in every Country, or every Century. We are never to be daunted, or dismayed. We neither regard *Ministry*, nor reverence *Majesty*; but aim our Darts at either, as we find Occasion. In short, we maintain our Cause, ply our Weapons, and press into the Enemies Ranks, with the utmost Bravery and Intrepidity.

A. All

A. All this, and more, will readily be allowed: but considering how very much depends on the Safety of your Persons; the Question is, whether they ought to be so much exposed. I am persuaded, that less venturing than yours, has cost several modern Heroes their Heads.

B. *Aut primi a Cæsare, aut nulli*, is our *Motto*. But to return from this Digression; it happens somewhat unluckily, that we are both of us under Obligations to the Court; my self especially: on which Account, our present Opposition appears not with so fair a Face as we could wish.

A. Do you mean Obligations to your *most gracious Sovereign*, as you loyally express yourselves; or to his *most ungracious Minister*?

B. To both. As to the latter, we make ourselves very easy: and in respect of the former, it will not be our Faults, if we do not make him ample Amends, and most abundant Satisfaction.

A. As how?

B. Because we offer him a Couple of the ablest, wisest, and most consummate Statesmen that ever Monarch was bless'd with: who the very Moment they commence Ministers, will devote themselves to his Honour and Service in a *singular manner*; and who doubt not to atchieve such things, as will amaze all *Europe*, and be scarce credible to Posterity.

A. What pity it is, that you have lost so much Time! But the Election is not far off; and then I suppose your Merits will be rung through the Nation so loudly, as perhaps to reach the Ears of his Majesty.

B. We have taken all possible Care to engage the Populace, and spirit them up for our Purpose; but our Countrymen are fickle, and apt to shrink. On this, and several other Accounts, it requires our utmost Art to hold fast our Friends, and keep them steady.

A. I neither question your Application, nor Abilities. As to the latter; not to mention that *Genius*, or, if you please, *Anti-genius*, which you are happily possess'd of; I presume you must have run round the whole Circle of Arts and Sciences, without which you could never have been able to arrive at such Penetration and Perfection in the Mysteries of State.

B. The Arts and Sciences are not only useful, but necessary: yet to make them rightly subservient to our main Purpose, we are obliged to accommodate and bend them to our Anti-political Measures. In other Words; we are forced to cast them, as it were, anew in our own Moulds: which done, they turn out not only fitter for Use, but vastly improved and beautified.

A. I long for a small Specimen: Pray what is *Anti-political Logic*?

B. It

B. It is, with us, an Art of turning and twisting human Understanding into all Shapes, Sizes, and Situations; or, if you will, of drawing from all Sorts of Premises, what Inferences and Conclusions we please.

A. Very clever and concise! And what make you of *Rhetoric*?

B. Our *Rhetoric* is an Art of persuading Men that Black is White, and White Black; that a Part is equal to the Whole, and 3 times 3 150; that *Craft* and Guile are the Perfection of Wisdom, and the Serpent more innocent than the Dove; that Sun and Moon are the chief Obstacles to Sight and Enjoyment, and nothing in Life so clear and comfortable as a thick *Mist*, and an impenetrable *Fog*.

A. Most excellent! But I would gladly hear whether you take any notice of *Ethics*?

B. Our *Ethics* lie in a narrow Compass. They are, in effect, all comprehended in that admirable Sentence of the Poet, *Proximus sum egomet mihi*.

A. Enough; I am satisfied. With great Attention have I listen'd to your Memoirs and Maxims of State; and the Result is, that I am fully convinced of your prodigious Abilities and Accomplishments of all Kinds. At the same time, being no less conscious of my own Infirmities, I plainly perceive that I have not Talents any way equal to the Demands of your sublime Sect.

B. A

B. A commendable Modesty!

A. I must therefore intreat your Anti-political Excellence to excuse such Defects; to indulge likewise the Qualms, Scruples, and Prejudices of an undisciplined Novice; and permit me to remain in a State of Political Ignorance and Stupidity.

B. How! do you mean then to turn your Back on the *Country-Interest*?

A. Where lies it? In *Terra incognita*, or some Region of the Moon? To deal plainly with you, I know no *Country*, whose *Interest* it can be to exchange their Herds and their Flocks for Wolves and Tygers.

B. Was *Sempronius* out of his Wits? Go then, and be a precious Advocate for the *Excise-Scheme*.

A. For any, sooner than the Gunpowder-Scheme. I entirely come into the Sentiment of an honest Country Merchant.

B. What said the Wretch?

A. As well, said he, as I love Ease and Liberty, I had much rather see an *Excise-man* in my Warehouse, than a *Rat-catcher* in my Kitchen; and have a hundred in my Cellar, rather than one *G. Faux*.

B. Insolence! Have you done?

A. One word more, and then adieu. Whatever becomes of your Pretensions at Court, my Opinion is, that, in Consideration of your transcendent Merits, you ought to be advanced immediately; that is, constituted

stituted *Prime-Ministers* and *Presidents* of the illustrious *Society* lately projected at *Dublin*. Among the various Tribes of *Incurables*, you will have a rare Opportunity of exercising your egregious Skill, and boundless Humanity. Which of the Classes will have the Honour of laying Claim to the *Par nobile*; tho' it be a Point easily determinable by a private Person, yet I chuse to leave it to the Judgment and Decision of the Public.

F I N I S.





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